

Killings of Policemen in Assam

1221. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent killings of nine policemen and one civilian ambushed by terrorist outfits in the District of North Cachar Hills in Assam;

(b) what concrete steps have been taken by Government to stop such cowardly killings by the terrorists in Assam; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Govt. has taken various steps to bring the law and order situation in State under control. These include, *inter alia*, deployment of Para-military forces and army in the State, coordinated action by army, Para-military forces and State Police for counter insurgency operations, declaration of major insurgent groups as unlawful association under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967; declaration of insurgency affected States as "disturbed area" under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958; reimbursement of security related expenditure to the State Government and modernisation/upgradation of State police Force. Regular review of the situation both at State and Central Government level is being made.

Ceasefire Agreement with BLT

1222. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the assessment of ceasefire agreement with BLT;

(b) whether Government are thinking about such a ceasefire with NDF(B); and

(c) the policy adopted by Government to prevent fratricidal killings in BAC areas of Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) The peace talks with BLT are progressing satisfactorily. The level of violence attributable to the B LT has come down following initiation of peace talks with the BLT.